# Commissioner's Annual Report FY 2012

NORFOLK, WIRCHNIA
COMMISSIONIER OF REVIEWUE
JUNE 30, 2012

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## **Commissioner of Revenue**

"Providing Superior Service and Quality to the Citizens of Norfolk"

## **Mission Statement**

We are the chief tax assessor for the City of Norfolk.

We provide superior service and quality in the:

- Assessment of individual and business personal property;
- Issuance and renewal of business licenses:
- Administration of all fiduciary taxes;
- Provider of DMV Select services:
- Evaluation of customer tax compliance;
- Assistance and processing of Virginia State Income Taxes;
- Investigation of inquiries and delinquent accounts;
- Assistance with Real Estate Tax Relief, Disabled Veterans Relief, Yard sales and Residential Parking Permits.

We provide these services for the Citizens of Norfolk to aid in the continued economic growth of our city.



## **Commissioner of Revenue**

"Providing Superior Service and Quality to the Citizens of Norfolk"

## **History of the Office**

The primary responsibility of this office is the assessment of City and State taxes. The Commissioner of Revenue holds office as an agent for the state, as well as the local government, and is the assessing officer on the local level for those taxes as prescribed by State law and City Ordinance.

The office of the Commissioner of Revenue was provided for in Virginia's Constitution in 1869. By 1906, the Virginia General Assembly had made it an appointive office, to be appointed by the local court. A Constitutional Amendment in 1910, changed the appointive method to elective for a four year term. In 1926, the General Assembly reduced the number of county Commissioners to one per county, conforming to the cities, making a total of one hundred and thirty four. In 1932, the General Assembly set up the basis of compensation for Commissioners, with both the State and City participating.

Your Commissioner of Revenue Office provides service and assistance to citizens and businesses on tax-related issues. Norfolk citizens use this office and depend on it to assist them with both State and City tax-related concerns. As a bridge between our City Council members and our State Legislators, this office serves to protect the City and the taxpayers. A key responsibility of your Commissioner of Revenue is to keep abreast of, and to lobby for, or against, legislative issues as they impact our city's revenues and funding of the Commissioner's office.

#### **Duties of the Office**

The Commissioner of Revenue is the Assessor of all City taxes, except Real Estate, and of certain State Taxes as outlined in Sections 58.1-3100 through 58.1-3122 of the *Virginia Code*.

#### Commissioner's duties as specified by Virginia State and Norfolk City Code:

- Assess all Business and Personal Property
- Classify and issue Business Licenses
- Process State Income Tax Returns
- Assess all Local Fiduciary Taxes

#### Commissioner's additional duties:

- 1) Administrator of Food and Beverage, Lodging, Room Tax, Admission, Short-Term Rental and Cigarette taxes
- 2) Administrator of Personal Property Tax Relief Compliance Program
- 3) Administrator of Senior Citizens and Diasabled Veterans Real Estate Tax Relief Program (and General Real Estate Tax Deferral Programs as may be offered by City Council from time to time.)
- 4) Provider of DMV Select services
- 5) Administrator of Residential Parking and Yard Sale Permits
- 6) Provider of State Income Tax Assistance
- 7) Administrator of an audit program which, on a regular basis, evaluates, appraises, and compares all Business Licenses, ad valorem and excise taxes, and their level of compliance to State and City code
- 8) Administrator of Utility, Franchise (Bank and Telephone) and Public Service Corporation taxes
- 9) Collector of Contractor Workers Compensation certifications with responsibility to forward them to the State Workers Compensation Board
- Provider of tax-related statistical data to the City Council, the City Manager, and other City Offices and Departments
- 11) Provider of revenue forecasts to the City Manager and City Budget office in conjunction with the development of the City's annual operating budget
- 12) Watchdog of all tax-related legislation introduced into the General Assembly in order to ascertain potential impact on local tax revenues
- 13) Advisor to Norfolk legislators to the General Assembly and Norfolk City Council concerning revenue issues
- 14) Administrator of a program to conduct Manufacturer determination visits
- 15) Participant in State Sales Tax Partnership Program Assist the Virginia Department of Taxation in identifying unreported revenues
- 16) Verify and Issue Enterprise Zone Tax refunds
- 17) Administrator of Charitable Solicitation Permits



# **Personal Property Revenue Team**

Brian Casey, Team Leader

Phone: 664-7858 email: brian.casey@norfolk.gov

## Personal Property Revenue Team Duties

- ◆ Individual/Business Vehicle Personal Property Autos, trucks, motorcycles and utility trailers are assessed on a prorated basis. Proration is calculated on the actual number of months the vehicle is present in the City of Norfolk. Assessment is calculated using the National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA) "Loan" Value and taxed at the rate of \$4.33 per hundred. Personal Property Tax is payable annually on, or before, June 5th.
- PPTRA Personal Property Tax Relief provides tax relief for passenger cars, motorcycles, and pickup or panel trucks having a registered gross weight of less than 7,501 pounds. In 2012 the relief percentage, paid by the State, was 55%.
- Recreational Vehicles Recreational Vehicles are assessed on a prorated basis using the NADA Recreational Vehicle Guide "Used" Value and taxed at the rate of \$1.50 per hundred. Recreational Vehicle property tax is payable annually on, or before, June 5th.
- Aircraft\* Aircraft are assessed at 20% of the wholesale value in the Aircraft Blue Book and taxed at the rate of \$2.40 per \$100. Aircraft taxes are due on, or before, June 5th.
- Rental Tax on Daily Rental Passenger Cars These taxes are remitted by the business to the Department of Motor Vehicles on a monthly basis. Taxes are assessed at 8% of the Gross Rental Proceeds for vehicles with a gross vehicle weight of 26,000 pounds or less. The DMV then forwards half of that amount to the City of Norfolk. Taxes are assessed at 4% of the Gross Rental Proceeds for vehicles with a gross vehicle weight of 26,001 pounds or more. The entire 4% is forwarded to the City of Norfolk. The Commissioner's Office has the responsibility of verifying receipt and accuracy of all remittances.
- Mobile Homes\* Mobile Homes are assessed using the Virginia Mobile Home Appraisal Guide and taxed at the rate of \$1.11 per \$100. All Mobile Home taxes are due on, or before, June 5th.

\*Personal Property Taxes in this classification are NOT prorated.

## Personal Property Revenue Team Duties - Continued

- Residential Parking Permits \$10.00 per vehicle, per year; for vehicles in certain areas of the city, prorated semi-annually. One free visitor pass per address is issued annually. In addition, 30-day visitor passes are available for \$2.00 with a maximum of 2 being issued simultaneously. As of June 30 2012, there were 20 Residential Parking Permit Zones in the city.
- Yard/Garage Sale Permits \$5.00 Yard Sale permit fee and limited to two permits per calendar year.
- DMV Select services include Vehicle Titling, Vehicle Registration, Special & Personalized License Plates, Dealer Title & Registration Services & Voter Registration enabling one-stop processing for most DMV transactions. The Commissioner's Office receives compensation from the Department of Motor Vehicles of 4.5% of gross receipts of DMV transactions up to \$499,999, and 5% of DMV transactions \$500,000 and up.

## **Tangible Personal Property - Vehicles**

Chart 8 - Comparison - Tax Relief to Total Tax Due

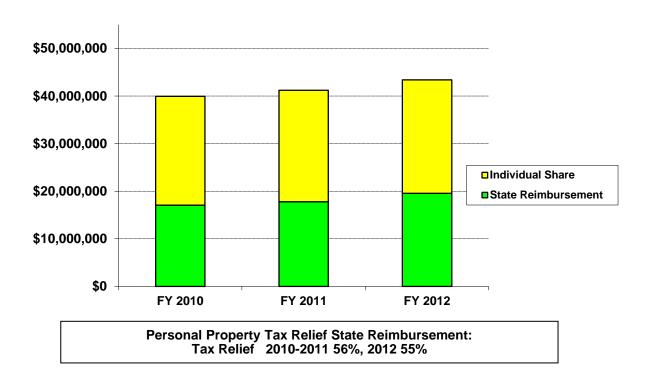
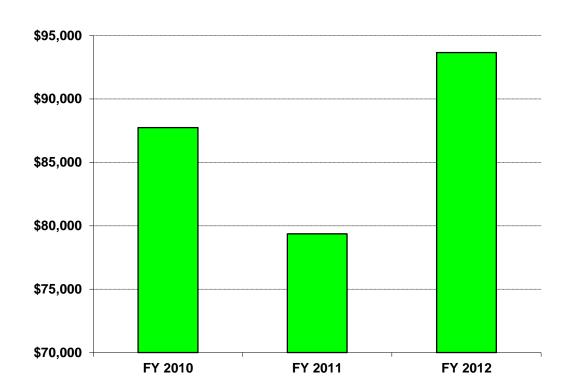


Table 8 - Summary of Tangible Personal Property Tax on vehicles

			Year		%	
		FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	Inc/Dec	Change
A ::	Number Accts	188,940	186,961	184,671	-2,290	-1.22%
All Vehicles	Assessed	\$971,691,475	\$987,528,440	\$1,041,387,809	\$53,859,369	5.45%
	Tax Due*	\$39,936,911	\$41,210,867	\$43,406,178	\$2,195,311	5.33%
Average	e Tax Due per Vehicle	\$211.37	\$220.42	\$235.05		
	,					
Vehicles	Number Accts	164,693	173,078	160,551	-12,527	-7.24%
qualifying	Assessed	\$941,089,129	\$965,579,565	\$889,433,858	-\$76,145,707	-7.89%
for Tax	State Reimbursement	\$17,080,941	\$17,775,883	\$19,557,019	\$1,781,136	10.02%
Relief	State Reimbursement %	56%	55%	55%		

<sup>\*</sup> Annual Tax Due after proration



**Chart 9 - DMV Select Revenue** 

Table 9 - Revenue from DMV Select \*

	Year						
	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012				
# of Transactions	61,934	42,557	48,312				
Revenue*	\$87,743	\$79,373	\$93,659				

<sup>\*</sup>The City of Norfolk is compensated by the Commonwealth of Virginia for offering DMV Select Services. The compensation for DMV Select Service is based on a percentage of gross sales as follows;

0 - 499,999 in gross sales = 4.5% compensation \$500,000 & Up = 5% compensation

## Tax on Daily Rental Passenger Cars

**Chart 10 - Daily Rental Passenger Car Tax** 

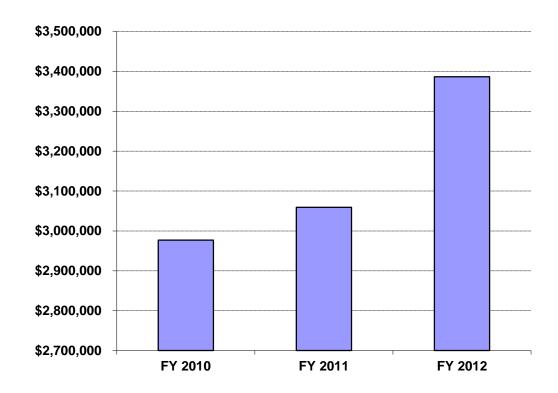
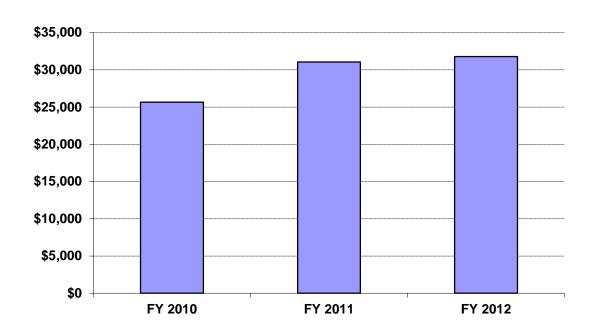


Table 10 - Revenue from tax on daily rental of passenger cars

Period	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	Inc/ Dec	%Change
Jul - Sep	\$ 803,080	\$614,201	\$988,410	\$374,209	61%
Oct - Dec	873,392	1,235,709	974,292	(261,417)	-21%
Jan - Mar	503,389	669,875	747,152	77,277	12%
Apr - Jun	797,260	539,477	676,900	137,423	25%
Totals	\$ 2,977,121	\$ 3,059,262	\$ 3,386,754	\$ 327,492	10.7%

## **Residential Parking Permit Sales**

**Chart 11 - Residential Parking Permit Fees** 



**Table 11 - Residential Parking Permits Sold** 

	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	Inc/Dec	%Change
Number of Zones	20	20	21	1	5%
Permits Issued	2,784	3,497	3,583	86	2%
Fees Collected	\$25,649	\$31,047	\$31,771	\$ 724	2%

## **Mobile Homes & Aircraft**

Chart 12a - Annual Tax on Mobile Homes

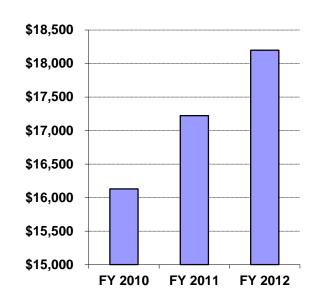
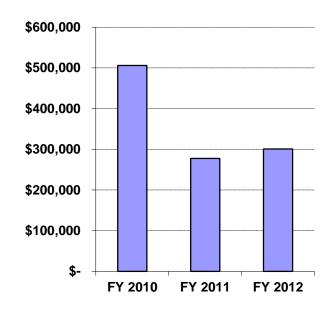


Chart 12b - Annual Tax on Aircraft



**Table 12a - Annual Tax on Mobile Homes** 

	Mobile Homes									
		FY 2010		FY 2011		FY 2012	Inc/ Dec	%Change		
Units		405		460		469	9	2%		
Assessed Value	\$	1,452,534	\$	1,551,534	\$	1,617,662	\$66,128	4%		
Annual Tax	\$	16,129	\$	17,222	\$	18,199	\$977	6%		
Average Tax Due per Mobile Home		39.82	\$	37.44	\$	38.80				

Table 12b - Annual Tax on Aircraft

Aircraft									
		FY 2010		FY 2011		FY 2012	Inc/ Dec	%Change	
Units		100		91		83	-8	-9%	
Assessed Value	\$	21,084,800	\$	12,403,444	\$	12,529,331	\$125,887	1%	
Annual Tax	\$	506,035	\$	277,609	\$	300,704	\$23,095	8%	
Average Tax Due									
per Plane	\$	5,060.35	\$	3,050.65	\$	3,622.94			

## Yard / Garage Sale Permits

**Chart 13 - Yard Sale Permit Fees** 

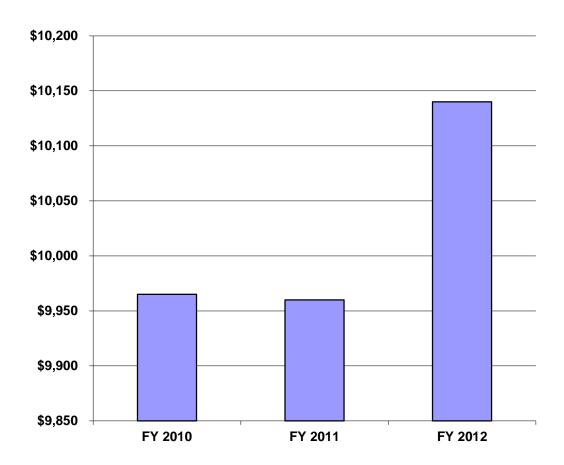


Table 13 - Yard/Garage Sale Permits issued and fees collected

	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	Inc/Dec	%Change
Permits Issued	1,993	1,992	2,028	36	2%
Fees Collected	\$ 9,965	\$9,960	\$10,140	\$ 180	2%

## **Omitted Assessments - Vehicles**

**Chart 14 - Omitted Assessments** 

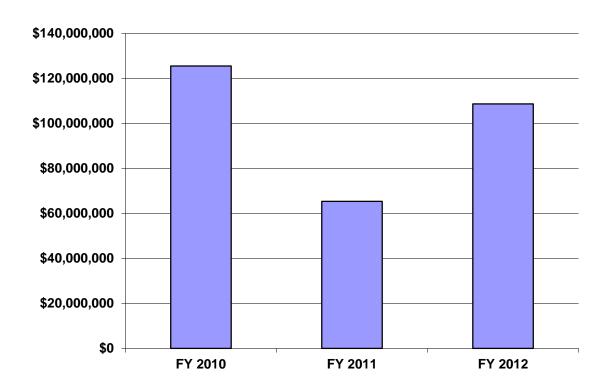


Table 14 - Tax due from Omitted Assessments\*

		Year			
	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	Inc/Dec	% Change
Assessment	\$125,516,849	\$65,355,243	\$108,656,896	43,301,653	66%
Tax	\$833,422	\$645,366	\$2,126,819	1,481,453	230%

<sup>\*</sup>Omitted Assessments are created when property subject to taxation is discovered by COR staff and put on tax rolls for current and/or prior three (maximum) years as applicable.



## **Business Revenue Team**

William E. Parker, Team Leader

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## **Business Revenue Team Duties**

- ◆ Business Personal Property Includes all business furniture, fixtures, equipment, machinery and tools located in the City of Norfolk on January 1st. Business property is assessed at 40% of the original capitalized cost (new) and taxed at the rate of \$4.33 per hundred. Machinery and Tools for manufacturers are assessed at 40% of the original capitalized cost (new) and taxed at the rate of \$4.25 per hundred. Business Personal Property tax is payable annually on, or before, June 5th.
- ◆ City Business License Required of all businesses operating within the City of Norfolk. If annual gross receipts are less than, or equal to, \$100,000 then a flat fee of \$50 is due. If annual gross receipts exceed \$100,000 then the following taxation rates apply: Contactors \$0.16 per \$100; Retailers and Restaurants \$0.20 per hundred; Service and Repair \$0.36 per hundred; Professional and Real Estate \$0.58 per hundred; Telecommunications \$0.50 per hundred and Wholesalers \$0.15 per hundred plus \$50. Business License taxes are due on, or before, March 1st.
- ♦ Food and Beverage Tax Food and Beverage taxes are 6 1/2% of a prepared meal, including alcoholic beverages. This tax is collected by the business and remitted monthly to the Commissioner of Revenue by the 20th of each month. 1% of this tax is dedicated to the City's Public Amenities Fund.
- ♦ Lodging Tax Lodging taxes are 8% of the hotel/motel bill and are collected by the business. They are remitted monthly to the Commissioner of Revenue by the 20th of each month. 1% of this tax is dedicated to the City's Public Amenities Fund.
- Room Tax Room tax is \$2 per room for each night of lodging at any hotel. This tax is collected by the business and remitted monthly to the Commissioner of Revenue by the 20th of each month. 100% of this tax goes to the Norfolk Convention and Visitors Bureau.
- ◆ Admissions Tax These taxes are 10% on all events held within the city that charge an admission. This tax is collected by the business and remitted monthly to the Commissioner of Revenue by the 20th of each month.
- ◆ Cigarette Tax This tax is assessed by the Commissioner of the Revenue on cigarettes purchased in the City of Norfolk. A stamp must be affixed to each package of cigarettes sold in the City. The taxation rates, are \$.75 on a package containing 20 cigarettes, and \$.9375 on a package containing 25 cigarettes.

## **Business Revenue Team Duties**

- ◆ Boats Personal Watercraft are assessed annually using the Anderson and Bugg Outboard Service (ABOS) Marine Blue Book "Low Estimated Trade-In" Value and taxed at the rate of \$.50 per hundred. Commercial Vessels weighing less than 5 tons are assessed using the ABOS Marine Blue Book "Low Estimated Trade-In" Value and taxed at the rate of \$1.50 per hundred. Commercial vessels weighing 5 tons or more are assessed at 60% of original cost, with a depreciation of 5% each year until reaching a minimum depreciated value of 20% of original cost. They are taxed at the rate of \$1.50 per \$100. In accordance with State & City Code, owners of commercial boats must file a listing of all vessels with this office on, or before, February 1. All boat property tax is due on, or before, June 5th.
- ♦ Short Term Rental Tax Personal Property there is a 1% levy on rental items that are "short term" in nature (92 days or less). These items include, but are not limited to, video tapes, DVDs, and tuxedos. The retailer remits this tax to the Commissioner of Revenue on a quarterly basis. There is a 1 1/2% levy on heavy equipment rentals that are less than 270 days. These items include; graders, forklifts, and tractors.

## **Business Personal Property**

Chart 17a - Business Property -Furniture, Fixtures, & Equipment

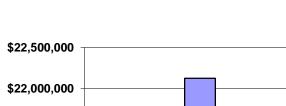
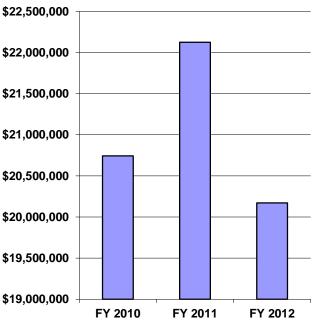
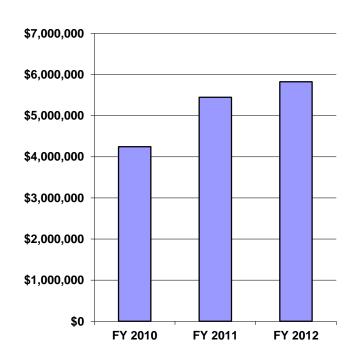


Chart 17b - Business Property - Machinery and Tools





**Table 17 - Annual Business Personal Property Tax** 

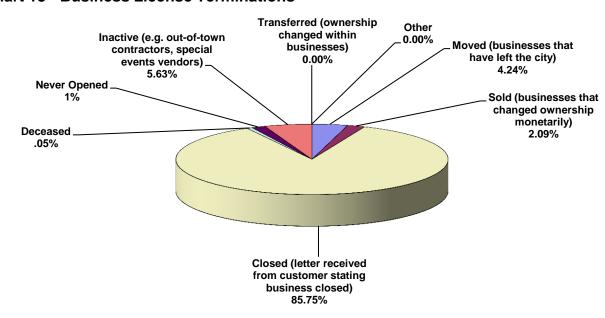
			Fiscal Year			
Classification		FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	Inc/ Dec	% Change
Francisco Firstrone 0	Accounts	10,145	9,975	9,901	-74	-0.7%
Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment	Assessments	\$510,328,494	\$502,508,825	\$461,275,999	-\$41,232,826	-8%
Equipment	Tax	\$20,744,340	\$22,125,955	\$20,171,082	-\$1,954,873	-9%
Average Tax Due p	er Account	\$2,045	\$2,218	\$2,037	,	
			·			
	Accounts	139	130	135	5	4%
Machinery & Tools	Assessments	\$107,322,217	\$126,961,796	\$131,688,653	\$4,726,857	4%
	Tax	\$4,246,320	\$5,448,686	\$5,825,533	\$376,847	7%
Average Tax Due p	er Account	\$30,549	\$41,913	\$43,152		
	Accounts	10,284	10,105	10,036	-69	-0.7%
Combined Total	Assessments	\$617,650,711	\$629,470,621	\$592,964,652	-\$36,505,969	-6%
	Tax	\$24,990,660	\$27,574,641	\$25,996,615	-\$1,578,026	-6%

## **Business License - Activity by Classification**

**Table 18a - Business License Summary** 

Summary of Business License Activity	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
# of New Businesses Opened	3,819	2,710	1,964
# of Businesses Closed	1,725	2,315	2,148
Net Increase/Decrease	2,094	395	-184
Total # Active Businesses	14,155	13,760	13,189

**Chart 18 - Business License Terminations** 



**Table 18b - Business License Terminations** 

Business License Termination Criteria	FY	FY	FY
	2010	2011	2012
Moved (businesses that have left the city)	80	53	91
Sold (businesses that changed ownership monetarily)	63	42	45
Closed (letter received from customer stating business closed)	1107	1988	1842
Deceased (owner of business has died)	18	14	14
Never Opened (license obtained, but business operations never began)	55	48	35
Inactive (e.g. out-of-town contractors, special events vendors)	223	69	121
Transferred (ownership changed within businesses)	15	3	0
Other	164	98	0
Total	1725	2315	2148

# **Business License - Taxation Rates**

<b>Brief Description</b>	on of Classifications	<b>Annual Tax Rate</b>
Contractors	Businesses who bid on jobs and perform work based on their bids (Building Trades)	\$.16 per 100
Peddlers	Merchants who travel from place to place with no specific location for offering their goods and services includes Special Events	\$500
Professionals	Licensed individuals (Attorneys, Physicians, CPA's, etc.)	\$.58 per 100
Retail	Those who sell goods to the public, not wholesale (retail stores & restaurants)	\$.20 per 100
Retail Gasoline	Service Stations	\$.20 per 100
Repair & Service	Services not clearly identified as Financial, Real Estate, or Professional	\$.36 per 100
Wholesale	Distributors who sell to retailers	\$.15 per 100, plus \$50
Stevedores	Marine cargo handling services	\$.36 per 100, Max \$2,500
Communications	Telephone companies - wireless & landline	\$.50 per 100
Prior Year	Tax collected for previous license years	Varies
Other	Out of Business License, Circuses, Research & Development	Varies

## **Business License - Revenue by Classification**

**Chart 20 - Business License by Classification** 

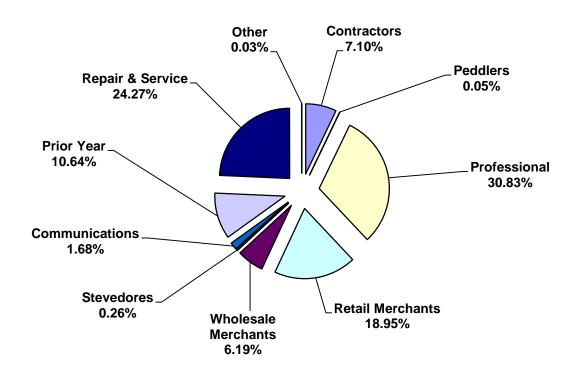


Table 20 - Business License by classification

	F	Y 2010	F`	Y 2011	F۱	<b>/ 2012</b>	Amount	Amount
Classification	Number	\$Amount	Number	\$Amount	Number	\$Amount	Inc/ Dec	%Change
			ī		ī	•		1
Contractors	2,778	\$ 2,985,803	2,673	\$ 2,219,335	2,565	\$ 2,271,316	\$ 51,981	2%
Peddlers	452	45,150	353	17,500	382	16,750	(750)	-4%
Professional	1,222	8,054,909	1,197	8,520,760	1,182	9,861,476	1,340,716	16%
Retail Merchants	3,267	5,550,822	3,123	5,689,069	3,013	6,060,058	370,989	7%
Wholesale Merchants	379	1,494,331	368	1,637,860	356	1,979,173	341,313	21%
Stevedores	49	98,210	47	89,847	44	82,464	(7,383)	-8%
Communications	24	720,053	25	560,815	26	538,393	(22,422)	-4%
Prior Year	923	902,487	918	3,008,375	911	3,401,582	393,207	13%
Repair & Service	5,037	6,332,065	5,032	8,054,695	4,682	7,760,741	(293,954)	-4%
Other	24	9,864	24	9,653	28	10,299	646	7%
Total	14,155	\$ 26,193,694	13,760	\$ 29,807,909	13,189	\$ 31,982,252	\$ 2,174,343	7%

# **Lodging Tax & Room Tax**

**Chart 21 - Lodging Tax** 

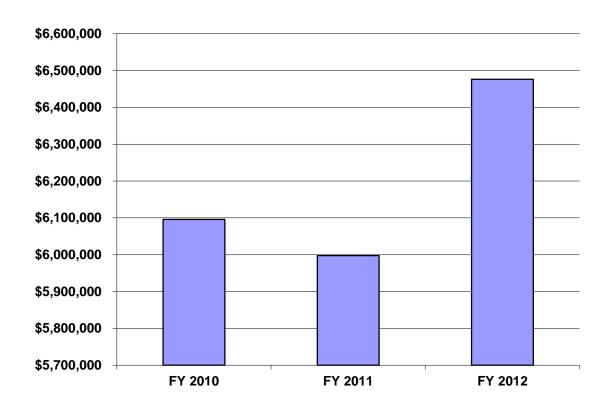


Table 21a - Revenue from Lodging Tax

				Dollars	%
	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	Inc/ Dec	Change
# of accounts	50	49	45		
Tax Remitted	\$ 6,095,889	\$ 5,997,60	9 \$ 6,476,199	\$ 478,590	8%
Avg Tax per Month	\$ 507,991	\$ 499,80	1 \$ 539,683		

**Table 21b - Revenue from Room Tax** 

					Dollars	%
	F	Y 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012*	Inc/ Dec	Change
Tax Remitted	\$	938,530	\$ 1,021,934	\$ 1,871,766	\$ 849,832	83%
Average Tax per month	\$	78,211	\$ 85,161	\$ 155,981		

<sup>\*</sup> In FY '12 the Room Tax Rate increased from \$1 to \$2 per room per night.

## Food & Beverage Tax & Admissions Tax

**Chart 22a - Food and Beverage Tax** 

Chart 22b - Admission Tax from Scope, Nauticus, Harbor Park, and all other sources

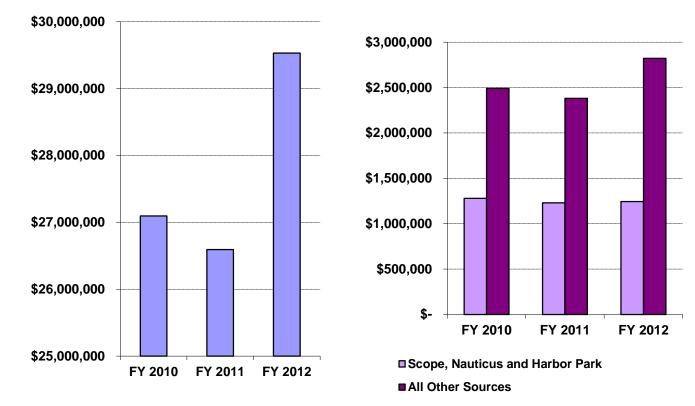


Table 22a - Revenue from Food and Beverage Tax

	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	Dollars Inc/ Dec	% Change
# of accounts	1062	1014	1006		
Tax Remitted	\$27,096,852	\$ 26,593,811	\$29,531,700	\$ 2,937,889	11%

Table 22b - Admissions tax from Scope, Nauticus, Harbor Park, and all other sources

	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	Dollars nc/ Dec	% Change
Scope, Nauticus and Harbor Park	\$ 1,279,798	\$ 1,230,552	\$ 1,244,827	\$ 14,275	1%
All Other Sources	2,489,930	2,381,105	2,822,240	\$ 441,135	18.5%
# of accounts - All other Sources	78	82	79		
Total	\$ 3,769,728	\$ 3,611,657	\$ 4,067,067	\$ 455,410	13%

## **Personal WaterCraft**

Chart 23 - Annual Tax on Personal WaterCraft

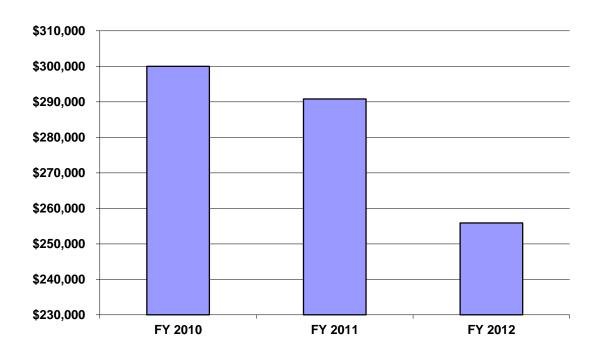
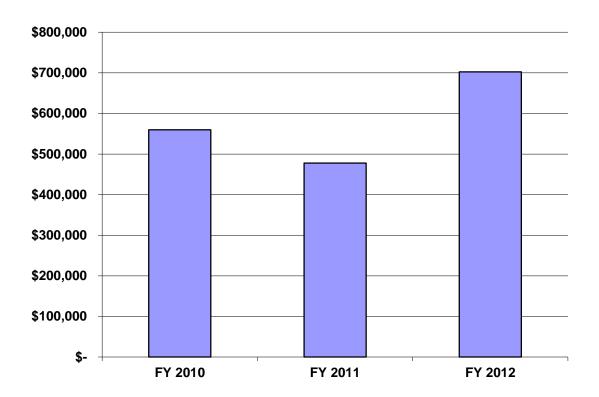


Table 23 - Annual Tax on Personal WaterCraft

Personal WaterCraft										
	FY 2010 FY 2011 FY 2012 Inc/ Dec %Chang									
Units	5,939	5,024	5,051	27	0.5%					
Assessed Value	\$59,998,817	\$58,157,288	\$51,184,364	-\$6,972,924	-12%					
Annual Tax	\$300,000	\$290,796	\$255,884	-\$34,912	-12%					
Decal Fee	\$119,770	\$102,140	\$102,275							
Total Revenue	\$419,770	\$392,936	\$358,159							
Average Tax Due & Fee per Boat	\$ 70.68	\$ 78.21	\$ 70.91							

**Chart 24 - Annual Tax on Commercial Vessels** 

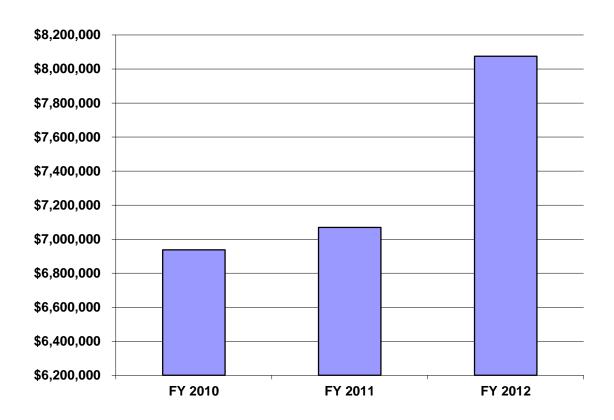


**Table 24 - Annual Tax on Commercial Vessels** 

Commercial Vessels										
	FY 2010 FY 2011 FY 2012 Inc/ Dec %Change									
Units	308	298	297	-1	0%					
<b>Assessed Value</b>	\$36,942,947	\$31,226,924	\$41,457,414	\$10,230,490	33%					
Annual Tax	\$559,645	\$477,655	\$632,506	\$154,851	32%					
Average Tax										
Due per Boat	\$ 1,817.03	\$ 1,602.87	\$ 2,129.65							

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**Chart 25 - Revenue from Cigarette Tax** 

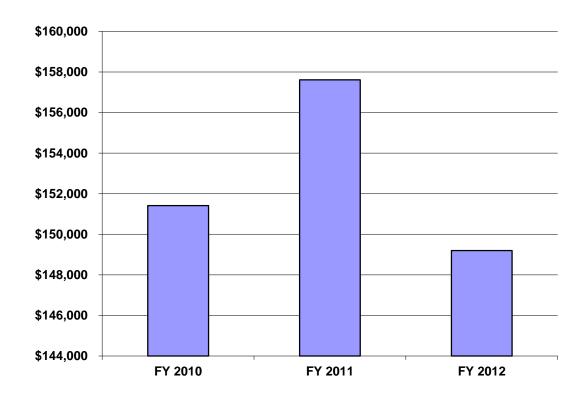


**Table 25 - Revenue from Cigarette Tax** 

				Dollars	%
	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	Inc/ Dec	Change
Revenue	\$ 6,937,644	\$ 7,069,120	\$ 8,075,578	\$ 1,006,458	14%
# of Accounts	17	27	20		

# **Short Term Rental Tax**

**Chart 26 - Short Term Rental Tax** 



**Table 26 - Short Term Rental Tax** 

				Dollars	%
	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	Inc/ Dec	Change
Revenue	\$ 151,411	\$ 157,616	\$ 149,200	\$ (8,416)	-5.3%
# of Accounts	47	36	37		



# **Special Taxes - State & City**

Joe Van Landingham, Business Manager & Special Tax Coordinator

Phone: 664-7894 email: joe.vanlandingham@norfolk.gov

## **Special Taxes - State & City Duties**

- Bank Franchise Tax This tax is imposed on banks with offices in Norfolk. The rate is based on the percentage of deposits through the principal office and/ or branches located in Norfolk as of January 1. The tax is 80% of the state rate of taxation (\$1 per \$100 of net capital) on each \$100 of the net capital of each bank located in the city. The tax is due annually on, or before, June 1st.
- ◆ Franchise Fee A franchise fee, in the amount of 3% of gross receipts, is collected annually from public service telephone companies. Payment of the tax allows the telephone company to use the localities' rights of way and for the placement of their telephone equipment.
- ◆ Utilities\* Utility taxes collected during each calendar month are reported, and paid, by each utility company on, or before, the 27th day of the second month following collection. Electric and gas companies base the amount of the utility tax on kilowatts per hour of electricity (kWh) and cubic feet of natural gas (CCF) consumed, as applicable. The schedule of taxation rates for utility companies is as follows:

#### **Utilities - Residential**

Electric - \$1.75 + .016891 per kWh not to exceed \$3.75 per month Natural Gas - \$1.50 per month Water - 25% of the first \$22.50

#### **Utilities - Business**

Electric - \$1.75 + .017933 on first 537 kWhs monthly + .006330 on remaining kWhs

Natural Gas - \$3.225 + .167933 on first 70 CCF + .161552 on CCF in excess of 70 CCF and up to 430 CCF + .15363 on all remaining CCF not to exceed \$500 Water - 25% of the first \$75 plus 15% of bill in excess of \$75

# Special Taxes - State & City Duties

#### Utilities - Manufacturer

Electric - \$1.38 + .004965 on first 3,625,100 kWhs + .004014 on all remaining kWhs not to exceed \$53,000 per month. Manufacturers located in an Urban Enterprise Zone shall be taxed at the rate of \$1.38 + .006192 on kWhs delivered monthly, not to exceed \$10,440 per month.

Natural Gas - \$3.225 + .167821 on first 70 CCF + .161552 on CCF in excess of 70 CCF and up to 430 CCF delivered monthly not to exceed \$500 Water - 25% of the first \$75 plus 15% of bill in excess of \$75

- Communications Sales Tax Beginning in January 2007, the Department of Taxation assumed control of the charging and collection of State Communication Sales and Use Tax. This action replaced localities ability to charge Utility Tax on Landline Telephone services, Wireless Telephone services, Cable Television services along with the Franchise Fee charged to the Cable Television industry, and the 911 fee.
- Consumption Tax Beginning January 2001, as part of the deregulation of the electric and gas industries in Virginia, four of Norfolk's taxes: the consumer utility tax, business license tax, the real, and the personal property taxes, and one State of Virginia tax were replaced with just one tax, the consumption tax. This tax is applied on the number kilowatt hours of electricity or the number of cubic feet of natural gas actually used by the customer. This is a cost saving feature for the consumers since they are taxed only on usage and not on the increasing and fluctuating price of energy.
- Public Service Corporation Personal & Real Property taxes are imposed on public service corporations such as utility and railroad companies. These rates are set by the Virginia General Assembly and valued by the State Corporation Commission. The Commissioner of Revenue is responsible for verification of taxable assets and for classifying those assets in accordance with the asset type. The real property taxation rate is \$1.11 per \$100 and the personal property taxation rate is \$4.33 per \$100.

# Franchise Tax and Utility Tax

Table 29a - Franchise Tax

Franchisee	FY 20	010	FY 2011	FY 2012	Revenue Inc/Dec	% Change
Bank Franchise	\$ 2,28	7,412	\$ 2,697,020	\$ 2,307,475	\$ (389,545)	-14%
Verizon	1,18	9,869	977,968	973,524	(4,444)	-0.5%
TOTAL	\$ 3,47	7,281	\$ 3,674,988	\$ 3,280,999	\$ (393,989)	-11%

## Table 29b - Utility Tax Revenue

Utility Companies	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	Inc/ Dec	% Change
Dominion Virginia Power	12,246,903	12,220,507	11,918,895	(301,612)	-2.5%
Public Utilities (Water)	5,260,707	4,829,406	4,875,936	46,530	1%
Virginia Natural Gas	2,895,006	2,712,714	2,550,554	(162,160)	-6%
Communication Sales Tax	22,369,275	23,206,694	22,005,465	(1,201,229)	-5%
Total	\$ 42,771,891	\$ 42,969,321	\$ 41,350,850	\$ (1,618,471)	-4%

## **Table 29c - Consumption Tax**

Utility	FY 2010			FY 2011	FY 2012			Inc/ Dec	% Change
Dominion Virginia Power	\$	646,169	\$	628,262	\$	665,073	\$	36,811	6%
Virginia Natural Gas		132,870		127,466		98,367	\$	(29,099)	-23%
Total	\$	779,039	\$	755,728	\$	763,440	\$	7,712	1%

## **Public Service Corporation Tax**

**Chart 30 - Public Service Corporation Taxes** 

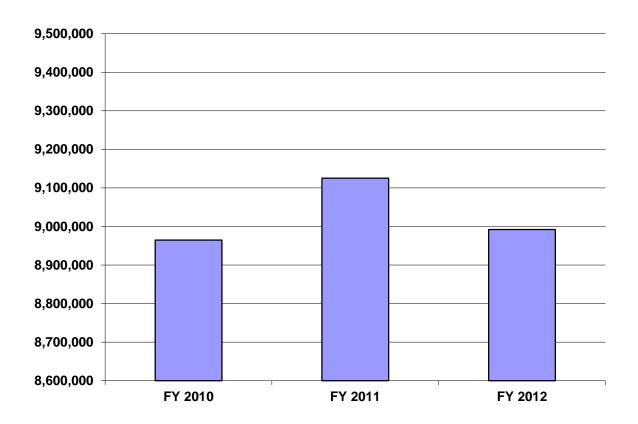


Table 30 - Public Service Corporation Real Property and Personal Property Taxes\*

			Year			%		
		FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	Inc/Dec	Change		
Real Property	Assessments	795,614,250	811,365,195	800,467,030	-10,898,165	-1%		
Real Floperty	Tax	8,831,318	9,006,153	8,885,184	-120,969	-1%		
Personal Property	Assessments	3,144,157	2,804,251	2,476,121	-328,130	-12%		
r ersonar roperty	Tax	133,627	119,180	107,216	-11,964	-10%		
Total	Assessments	798,758,407	814,169,446	802,943,151	-11,226,295	-1%		
Total	Tax	8,964,945	9,125,333	8,992,400	-132,933	-1%		

<sup>\*</sup>All property of Public Service Corporations was taxed at a rate of \$1.11 per hundred for real property and \$4.33 per hundred for personal property as applicable (automobiles and trucks).



## **Audit Team**

## Paul Crepeau, Team Leader

Phone: 664-7870 email: paul.crepeau@norfolk.gov

## **Audit Team Duties**

- Ensure compliance with state and city taxes, laws, ordinances and fees
- Evaluate, appraise, and compare businesses' license revenues to their level of compliance
- Conduct manufacturing determination visits
- Research, evaluate and prepare amendments to legislative proposals impacting localities' ability to generate tax revenues.
- Provide renderings for statewide uniformity in the application of Business License tax matters

### **In - Depth Assessments**

Chart 32 - Comparison of In-Depth Assessments and Amount Collected by year

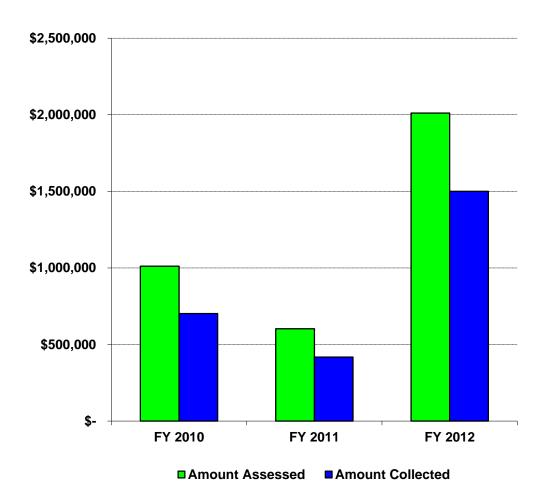


Table 32 - Revenue collected from in-depth assessments

	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Amount Assessed	\$1,011,798	\$602,546	\$2,011,084
Amount Collected	\$701,924	\$418,287	\$1,500,057

Note: Annual fluctuations between "Amount Assessed" & "Amount Collected" reflect timing differences between the audit completion and the collection of taxes assessed. Payment arrangements, Circuit Court judgments, or seizure and collection of Business Property Taxes by the City Treasurer are reasons for these timing differences.



# **Tax Compliance Team**

## Rick Wilkins, Team Leader

Phone: 664-7881 email: rick.wilkins@norfolk.gov

## Tax Compliance Team Duties

- Enforce compliance for business license, business personal property taxes, food and beverage tax, lodging tax, admissions tax and cigarette tax
- Ensure proper compliance of taxpayers relating to yard sales and permits
- Conduct taxpayer inquiry investigations
- Serve as ambassadors for the office of the Commissioner of Revenue throughout the city while performing daily job functions, as well as serving on community committees and attending community meetings as the liaison between the citizens and this office
- Answering questions, addressing citizen/taxpayer concerns and assisting with interdepartmental referrals regarding a variety of issues
- Represent Commissioner as a member of the City's Bar Task Force and the Convenience Store Task Force.

## **Tax Compliance Team Summary**

Table 34a - Tax Compliance activities by category

Activities	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	Inc/ Dec	% Change
Visits / Contacts (including Delinquent					
Business Licenses and new Business					
Discovery)	8,544	8,171	7,330	(841)	-10%
Telephone Contacts	3,927	4,388	3,034	(1,354)	-31%
Cases Completed	424	314	376	62	20%
New Cases Generated	280	274	324	50	18%
Paid Delinquent Business Licenses	765	900	1,215	315	35%
Paid Meal Tax	552	771	1,174	403	52%
Total Investigative Activities	14,492	14,818	13,453	(1,365)	-9%

Table 34b - Tax Compliance activities by amount

Activities	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	Inc/ Dec	% Change
Delinquent Business Licenses - Paid	\$ 1,233,229	\$ 1,080,639	\$ 2,552,151	\$ 1,471,512	136%
Inquiry Visits	347,230	597,254	249,105	(348,149)	-58%
Paid Meal Tax	741,447	1,485,624	1,208,165	(277,459)	-19%
Total	\$ 2,321,906	\$ 3,163,517	\$ 4,009,421	\$ 845,904	27%

#### **Brief Description of Activities**

Visits/Contacts - contact made by us to taxpayers in person

**Inquiries** -includes input from taxpayers, other agencies, and in - house discovery, which could result in establishing new business license accounts

Telephone Contacts - incoming and outgoing calls to/from taxpayers

**Case Completed** - all cases finalized, including cases where investigations have been completed and proper business license accounts have been established if required

**New Cases** - includes new cases generated for that period from citizen calls, in-house inquiries or other means resulting in an investigator initiating a call or visit



# **Taxpayer Assistance Team**

## Cheryl Spencer, Team Leader

Phone: 823-1134 email: cheryl.spencer@norfolk.gov

## Taxpayer Assistance Team Duties

Process Individual Income Tax Returns including Accelerated Refund Returns Refund, Tax Due, and Fiduciary Returns Estimated Tax Declarations and Payments Prior Year and Amended Tax Returns

- Provide State Tax Return Filing Assistance including Return Preparation and Filing Assistance Furnishing Instructional Speakers for Tax Seminars and Meetings Resolution of Taxpayer Conflicts with the Department of Taxation
- State income taxes must be filed with the local Commissioner of Revenue, on or before, May 1st of each year
- Real Estate Tax Relief

Determine eligibility for real estate tax relief based on the following basic requirements:

- (1) Must be at least 65 years of age or totally and permanently disabled.
- (2) Must live in the property to be exempted.
- (3) Combined income of owners and all relatives living in home cannot exceed \$67,000 per year.
- (4) Net worth, exclusive of the home, cannot exceed \$350,000.

The exemption is granted on an annual basis and a new application must be filed by June 1 each year.

## **State Income Tax**

Table 36a - State Income Tax Processing by Category

				Number	%
	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	Inc/ Dec	Change
I-File	7,474	6,852	267	(6,585)	-96%
Regular Refunds	4,376	2,856	3,734	878	31%
Accelerated Refunds	937	259	4,184	3,925	1515%
Tax Due	2,678	2,203	2,002	(201)	-9%
Estimated Taxes	2,100	2,035	2,028	(7)	0%
Amended & Prior Year Returns	2,352	2,422	2,512	90	4%
Totals	19,917	16,627	14,727	(1,900)	-11%

Table 36b - Taxpayer assistance statistics

	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	Number Inc/ Dec	% Change
Customer Visits for Filing					
Assistance	3,418	3,375	3,357	(18)	-1%
Telephone Calls Seeking					
Assistance	8,151	8,441	8,499	58	1%
VITA Filing Assistance*			51		
Total Taxpayer Assistance	11,569	11,816	11,856	40	0%

Table 36c - Taxpayer dollar amounts processed

	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	Number Inc/ Dec	% Change
Individual Income Tax Due Assessed	\$ 1,711,697	\$ 1,844,044	\$ 1,414,671	\$ (429,373)	-23%
Estimated Income Tax Assessed	\$ 2,280,136	\$ 2,281,759	\$ 2,816,908	\$ 535,149	23%
Total Dollars Processed	\$ 3,991,833	\$ 4,125,803	\$ 4,231,579	\$ 105,776	3%

<sup>\*</sup> In coordination with the United Way of South Hampton Roads, the Commissioner of Revenue's office was one of the 2012 tax sites for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA). There were 6 scheduled dates during the months of Feb, Mar, & Apr in which approximately 50 residents received assistance in preparing their federal income tax returns.

## **Real Estate Tax Relief**

Chart 37b - Number of Chart 37a - Dollar amount of Tax **Homeowners Qualified for Relief** Relief by Year \$12,000,000 5,500 \$10,000,000 5,000 \$8,000,000 4,500 \$6,000,000 4,000 \$4,000,000 3,500 \$2,000,000 3,000 \$0 2,500 FY 2010 FY 2011 FY 2012 FY 2010 FY 2011 FY 2012

**Table 37 - Real Estate Tax Relief** 

		Year		%	
	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	Inc/ Dec	Change
Accounts	4,935	4,655	4,497	-158	-3%
Amount	\$8,550,612	\$7,640,988	\$7,531,147	-\$109,841	-1.4%

## **Senior Citizens Real Estate Tax Relief**

Table 38a - Real Estate Tax Relief by percentage of exemption

Exemption	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	% Change
100%	3,028	2,758	2,658	-4%
80%	695	713	676	-5%
60%	570	538	529	-2%
40%	382	381	355	-7%
20%	260	265	279	5%
Total	4,935	4,655	4,497	-3%

**Table 38b - Statistical Information** 

	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Households on Disability	510	471	420
Senior Citizen Households	4,425	4,184	4,077
Total	4,935	4,655	4,497

Table 38c - Households removed from program

Reasons	FY 2012
Sale of Property	35
Death	45
Non-Compliance	14
Total	94



# **Assessment Recap by Classification**

Table 35 - Recapitulation of assessments by classification

CLASSIFICATION	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	INC/ DEC	% CHNGE
Admissions	\$ 3,769,728	\$ 3,611,657	\$ 4,067,067	\$ 455,410	13%
Aircraft	506,035	277,609	300,704	23,095	8%
Boats - Personal WaterCraft & Fee	419,770	392,936	358,159	(34,777)	-9%
Boats - Commercial Vessels	559,645	477,655	632,506	154,851	32%
Business License	26,193,694	29,807,909	31,982,252	2,174,343	7%
Cigarette Taxes	6,937,644	7,069,120	8,075,578	1,006,458	14%
Consumption Tax	779,039	755,728	763,440	7,712	1%
DMV Select	87,743	79,373	93,659	14,286	18%
Food and Beverage	27,096,852	26,593,811	29,531,700	2,937,889	11%
Franchise Taxes	3,477,281	3,674,988	3,280,999	(393,989)	-11%
Furniture & Fixtures	20,744,340	22,125,955	20,171,082	(1,954,873)	-9%
In-Depth Assessments	1,011,798	602,546	2,011,084	1,408,538	234%
Lodging Taxes	6,095,889	5,997,609	6,476,199	478,590	8%
Machinery & Tools	4,246,320	5,448,686	5,825,533	376,847	7%
Mobile Homes	16,129	17,222	18,199	977	6%
Omitted Assessments	833,422	645,366	2,126,819	1,481,453	230%
Passenger Car Daily Rental	2,977,121	3,059,262	3,386,754	327,492	10.7%
Public Service Corporation	8,964,945	9,125,333	8,992,400	(132,933)	-1%
Residential Parking Decals	25,649	31,047	31,771	724	2%
Room Tax	938,530	1,021,934	1,871,766	849,832	83%
Short Term Rental	151,411	157,616	149,200	(8,416)	-5%
Tangible Personal Property	39,936,911	41,210,867	43,406,178	2,195,311	5.3%
Utility Taxes	42,771,891	42,969,321	41,350,850	(1,618,471)	-4%
Yard/ Garage Sale Permits	9,965	9,960	10,140	180	2%
Total	\$ 198,551,752	\$ 205,163,510	\$ 214,914,039	\$ 9,750,529	4.8%

# **Appendix A - Tables**

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## Section

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